

A GENUINE  
ACCOUNT  
O F  
*NOVA SCOTIA:*  
C O N T A I N I N G,

A Description of its Situation, Air, Climate,  
Soil and its Produce; also Rivers, Bays, Har-  
bours, and Fish, with which they abound  
in very great Plenty.

To which is Added,

His Majesty's PROPOSALS, as an Encourage-  
ment to those who are willing to settle there.



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A GENUINE  
ACCOUNT  
OF  
MONASTICISM:

CONTAINING

A Description of its Situation, At, China,  
Sooi and the Provinces; the Rivers, Towns, Ports,  
in Asia, with Maps, and Descriptions of the Monks,



The Majesty's PROTECTORATE, as an Enclosure  
from the Royal Library to the public.



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# A GENUINE

# ACCOUNT O F

## NOVA SCOTIA.

**N**OVA SCOTIA is the most northerly, and easterly Province of all the *English* Range on the Continent, and consequently, the nearest to *Europe*.

It was called *Nova Scotia* by Sir *William Alexander*, Secretary of State for *Scotland*, under King *James I.* and afterwards created Earl of *Stirling*. By Means of Sir *Ferdinando Gorge*, President of the *New-England* or *Plymouth Company*, he obtained a Royal Grant for this Tract in 1621. When the *French* got Possession of it, they called it *L'Accadie*, in Allusion to *Arcadia* in the *Grecian Peloponnesus*; but with what Propriety I cannot pretend to determine.

A very exact geographical Description of a rude uncultivated Country is not to be expected: But the Boundaries of this are not difficult to settle, as it is on three Sides surrounded by the River of *St. Laurence*, the Gulph of the same Name, the Gut of *Canso Cape Sable Shore* on the *Atlantick Ocean*, and the Bay of *Fundy*. The Division from *New-England* has been sometimes laid down by the Course of *St. John's River*, which rising from the *Lady Mountains*, at no great Distance from the River of *St. Lau-*

*rence*, has a long south-easterly Course into the Bay of *Fundy*. But a late Order of Council fixes the Boundary at the River of *Holy Cross*, which falls into the Bay more on the South.

*Nova Scotia* extends betwxt 60 and 66 Degrees West Longitude from *London*, and 41  $\frac{1}{2}$  and 49  $\frac{1}{2}$  Latitude North. *Annapolis Royal*, at present the only Fortres in the Country, stands in Lat. almost 44 Degrees 40 M. West Long. about 65. The south-eastern Part is a large Peninsula, extending from South-west to North-east, and joined to the Main-land by an Isthmus a little above the Gut of *Canso*.

The French, since the Property of this Country has been vested in the English, affect to confine the Name of *Acadia* to the Peninsula only: But their own Maps made before the Cession of this Province, give it the Limits we have now assigned. I will add, that the Words of the Treaty do not contract it within narrower Limits than were before allowed to *Arcadia*.

According to this Description, *Nova Scotia* will be found to contain about 420 Miles in Length, and 380 in Breadth; which is an Extent of Land much larger than that of *Old Scotland*, or *North Britain*.

As to the Climate, it is not, indeed, so agreeable as in the southern Pars of *France*, tho' situated in the same Degrees of Latitude, because it is subject to severe Colds, and thick Fogs; but it would certainly grow better and better every Day, in Proportion as the Woods are cut down, and the Country cleared and improved; and when the Country to the North of it comes to be a little inhabited and cleared, it may, perhaps, become one of the pleasantest Spots upon the Globe; for, according to *Charlvoix's* Account

count, there is not a Country in the World of its Extent, where we meet with finer natural Harbours, or which more abundantly produceth all the Conveniences of Life. In Confirmation of which he says, that near the Harbour of *La Haive*, one single Grain of Wheat produced 150 pretty Ears of Corn, and each of them so loaded with Grain, that they were forced to inclose all the Ears in a Ring of Iron, and support them by a Pole; and that near the same Place there was a Field of Wheat, where every Grain of the Seed, even those that produced the least, put forth eight Stalks, every one of which had an Ear of at least half a Foot long. In short, says he, there is no where to be seen more beautiful Forests, or Forests that produce Timber more proper for the Building of Ships. And besides these Advantages, which are to be met with on the Surface, there are, 'tis said, in the Bowels of this Peninsula, several Mines of Copper and of Coal; but as they have great Plenty of Wood for firing, they have no Occasion to search or dig for the latter, and 'till the Country is fully inhabited, they can make no Use of the former.

Then as to that Sort of Provisions, which may be got without any Industry, no Country in the World abounds more than this. In their Forests there is an infinite Number of wild Beasts, such as Beavers, Elks, Bears, Otters, and Hares; and of wild Fowl, such as Bustards, or wild Turkeys, Partridges, Ducks, Teal, &c. and their Rivers swarm with all Sorts of Fresh-Water Fish, particularly Salmon and Trout; but what is of the greatest Consequence, is the rich Fishery upon the Coast, which abounds with Cod, Makarel, Herrings, Pilchards, Sturgeon, and several other Sorts of Fish, beside great Numbers

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of Sea-calves and Whales; and this Fishery might be the more easily carried on, because the Coast is full of natural Harbours, many of which are fit for receiving the largest Vessels, and might be easily fortified.

*Nova Scotia* has many Rivers, some of them now navigated for a long Course by the Natives. But for Bays, Harbours, and convenient Creeks, it is inferior to no Country in the known World. The *Cape Sable* Shore, which lies next to the fishing Banks, is peculiarly happy in this Respect.

The Bay of *Chebucto*, and the River that falls into it, bid fair, in the Opinion of some, to become, in time, the principal Port of *Nova Scotia*, and the Seat of its Metropolis. There is, over Land, good Communication by Wheel-carriage with the Bay of *Minas*, at present the chief Settlement of the *French*, with the Rivers of *Cobiquid* and *Pisaquid*, and the best easterly Parts of the Province. It is true, *Annapolis Royal* lies upon a fine Basin, and is more commodious for large inland Vent and Consumption: But the Country round it is bad, and the Tides of the Bay of *Fundy* render the Navigation difficult.

Upon the opposite, or westerly Shore of the Bay of *Fundy*, are the Rivers of *Pasamaquady* and *Holy Cross*, being about 17 Leagues N. W. from the Gut or Entrance of the Basin of *Annapolis*. The River of *Holy Cross*, or *St. Croix*, (as the *French* call it) was the old Boundary laid down betwixt *Nova Scotia* Government and *Sagadahock*, formerly the Duke of *York's* Property, but now annexed to the *New England* Government of *Massachusetts Bay*.

Further northward, upon this Shore is the River of *St. John*, 10 Leagues distant from the Gut of *Annapolis*. This is a very useful River,

of long Course and has a considerable Tribe of the *Abnaqui Indians* settled upon it: But they are at present, from the Neglect of the *Nova Scotia Government*, in the Interest of the *Canadian French*. There are prodigious Falls of Tides in this River, near its Mouth, of not less than 30 Fathom; not properly Cataracts occasioned by a Course over Rocks, but the Effect of the great Head of Water above, the Channel being here pent up betwixt two steep Mountains. By this River, and the Help of some Land-carriage, there is a Communication with the River of *S. Laurence*, and across that with *Quebeck*, the Metropolis of *Canada*.

More Northerly is *Cape Doré*, or *Gilt Cape*, about 30 Leagues from *Annapolis*. Here is plenty of mineral Coal for Firing, which must be esteemed a very great natural Advantage. Some Years ago a Company was set on Foot in *New England*, in order to work these Mines. But tho' that Project was soon dropped with Loss, a better Use will doubtless be made of this Treasure, when *Nova Scotia* itself comes to be inhabited. About the same Cape are some slender Veins of Copper Ore, some thin Laminæ of Virgin Copper, and a Gold Sulphur Marcasite.

Upon the Easterly Shore, or Gulph of *S. Lawrence*; after we are past the Point, is the Gut of *Canso*, and a short and safe Passage from the British Settlements to *Canada* River, and to all the other Ports of *Nova Scotia* on this Gulph. This Gut is six Leagues long, and only one League broad: The Navigation of it is very good, as appears from the Journals of Captain *Gayton*, who passed it in 1746, on a Cruize to *Green Bay*.

Twenty-five Leagues beyond the Gut is *Tamataganabou*, a considerable District or Settlement of the *Nova-Scotians*, and a good Road for Vessels.

*Green Bay*, or *Bay Verde*, lies 14 Leagues farther, and is shallow Water. This is the Landing-place from *Canada*, where Disturbance from the *French* is chiefly to be apprehended, and ought peculiarly to be guarded against in the Settlement of *Nova Scotia*. There are only four Miles Land-carriage from this Bay to *Chignecto* River, which runs by the *French* Town of the same Name into the opposite Bay, dividing the Isthmus in the narrowest Part. It is proper here to take Notice, that on the side of *Chignecto* Bay the Tide flows 11 Fathom : But on the Gulph of *St. Laurence*, or *Green Bay* Side, the Swell is not above 4 or 5 Feet.

Farther upwards, before we reach *Isle Bonaventure* and *Isle Perce* ; where the *French*, by the Treaty of *Utrecht*, have a right to cure and dry Cod-fish, we come to *Miramichi* Port, at the Mouth of a long River of the same Name, where I do not find any Settlement. There are some other small Bays betwixt this and that of *Cbaieurs*, (so called by the *French*) which runs a great way into the Land, and has a small Island at the Bottom of it, besides several others near the Entrance. Then proceeding towards the River of *St. Laurence*, below the South Entrance of that River, lies the Bay of *Gaspeé*, which is a deep and good Harbour. Here the *French*, contrary to Treaty, have continued to carry on their Fishery, and pretend to assume to themselves a Right over the Country behind it, which they distinguish in their modern Maps by the Name of *Gaspeie*. This Name they do indeed sometimes

times extend so far, as to take off the greatest Part of *Nova Scotia*, and leave us little, if any thing, more under the Title of *Accadie*, than the Peninsula before-mentioned. Such a Paper Encroachment, if not well-attended to, may, in time, be construed into a sort of Claim by Prescription: But as this Province is now thought worthy the Regard of the Administration \*, it is to be hoped the true and ancient Limits of it will be properly asserted: For tho' we may not suddenly settle more of it than the Peninsula, yet an Indulgence to our Rivals, in the other Parts, will be a great Check to the Industry of our new Colonians.

*Nova Scotia* is at present divided into ten or twelve Districts. Each District annually chuses one Deputy to be approved by the Commander and Council at *Annapolis*: He is a sort of Agent for his Countrymen, the *French*, in that District, and reports the State of it from Time to Time; but in what Manner we need not be at a Loss to determine. There is, in Fact, no Civil Power, either legislative or executive. The *French* Missionaries, who are not only appointed by the Bishop of *Quebeck*, but absolutely under his Direction in their several Districts and Villages, act as the sole Magistrates or Justices of the Peace: But all Complaints may, if the Parties think proper, be brought before the Commander in Chief and Council at *Annapolis*: A Liberty, which, if we consider the State of these People, and their Prejudices to the *English*, we may be certain is not often made Use of.

*Sable Island*, as it lies within the Latitude of the *Cape Sable* Shore, must be deemed within  
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\* See the Proposal for establishing a Civil Government there, and for the better peopling and settling the said Province, in the Lond. Mag. for March 1742.

the Jurisdiction of the Province of *Nova Scotia*. It is 35 Leagues S. E. from *Canso* to the Middle of this Island, which lies low, with small rising Elevations of Sand, called *Downs*. The Form of it is like an Arm bent, the hollow Part towards the N. E. The Bite to the Northwards is about 20 Miles in Length, and narrow. By reason of Shoals of Sand, small Tides of only five or 6 Feet, and a great Surf, it is inaccessible, except in this Bite, where Boats may land. It has been fatal to Ships, and formerly some People of Humanity put Cattle a-shore to breed on it, for the Relief of those, who might have the Misfortune to be there cast away. These Cattle, by multiplying a-pace, fully answered, for some Time, that Benevolent and Christian Purpose: But at last, some wicked People from the *New England* Continent, guided by the most brutal Motives, fitted out an Expedition against the poor Animals, and destroy'd the whole Race of them, for the Lucre of their Hides and Tallow.

There are on this Island abundance of Foxes and Seals, and some Pieces of standing Water. The Snows fall heavily here in the Winter, but lie not long on the Ground.

*To this Account we shall add the following Passage from the Old England Journalist, who, after applauding the Scheme, now going to be executed, of settling Nova Scotia, and erecting a Civil Government there; shewing the terrible Consequences of a Military Government, and severely condemning the iniquitous Practices of such as would make a Private Jobb of every laudable Undertaking for the Publick Good; goes on thus:*

**W**E are not to forget, that these new Adventurers will be altogether free from the Difficulties,

Difficulties, which usually attend others in the like Circumstances. They are not going in search of an unknown Country to settle in : No new Seas to explore, or untrodden Climates to risk their Healths in : No Inhabitants to fight with and drive away ; and very little, if any, Uncertainty to encounter with. On the contrary, they set out for a Country long since discovered, well known, and familiar to many among us, within the moderate Distance of six Weeks sail from *London* ; in a great measure settled and peopled already with *Europeans*, to the Number of 7 or 8000, and consequently improved in some Proportion : A wholesome Climate, well agreeing with a *British* Constitution ; abounding with all Necessaries of Life, the Seas and Rivers with Stores of excellent Fish, and the Woods with Plenty of winged Creatures and Quadrupedes fit for the Table : The Soil very capable of Improvement, insomuch, that the Husbandman and the Fisherman may well vie with one another for Success in their respective Vocations, and set their Industry in Competition, to attain a grateful Retreat for the Decline of Life.

'Tis true, the present *Nova-Scotians* (except the Garrison of *Annapolis*, and a few Miles about that Town) are Descendants of those *French* Inhabitants, who became subject to the *British* Crown, when that Country was ceded to us by the Peace of *Utrecht*. This, with their being profess'd *Roman Catholicks*, inclines them of Course to the Interest of *France*, which they have adhered to from the Beginning, and assisted in all Enterprizes upon that Country. They joined in their late Destruction of *Canso*, and likewise in an unsuccessful Siege of *Annapolis*. They corresponded with the *Gallo-Bretons* at *Louisbourg*, and

transported their Cattle to them, which rendered Provisions very dear at *Annapolis* and *Can/o.*

As they are naturally attached to our Enemies, they will of Course espouse their Cause, and take every Opportunity to join them, and support their Interest. This is the only Inconvenience, that, in all Appearance, will affect our own People ; and is really so great as to require the Interposition and Wisdom of the Legislature to remedy. The uncharitableness of their Religion, and the Craftiness of their Priests, will, I doubt, render a Coalition impracticable ; more especially, as *Cape Breton* is so near, which, while it continues *French*, will always encourage them to keep up a Spirit of Opposition and Dislike. To dispossess them would not, perhaps, be so unjust as unpolitick ; for those who forfeit their Allegiance, forfeit the Protection of the Government they are under ; and if they act as Enemies, they ought to be treated as such : But the Mischief of dispossessing them, is, that it would be an unpopular Transaction, and against the Faith of Treaties, and must inevitably embroil us with *France*, who undoubtedly have a Right to succour them, in Virtue of the Treaty of *Utrecht*. But that is not all ; for as the Country wants Inhabitants, the Loss of so many would become in a manner irreparable, as a Country is reckon'd wealthy in Proportion to the Number of the the People.

This is a very nice Affair, and requires deliberate Attention. Varieties of Religions are productive of various Evils, Dislike, Murmur, Enmity and Malice ; and yet we find the *Pensylvanians* live in great Amity together, notwithstanding their various Ways of Worship, and the Professions of all the Religions in *Europe* among them.

them. These People entertain a laudable and religious Charity towards one another, and consider, that tho' they differ in Form, they are all in Motion towards the same Point; and who worships in Sincerity in any Way whatsoever, is esteemed a good Man and honest Neighbour. If it were practicable to bring over the *Gallo-Saxons* into a Sensibility of universal Charity in Religion, like the wise People of *Pensylvania*, and to entertain a good Opinion of British Government, *Nova Scotia* would become altogether as happy, But how to effect it, is the great Point to be considered. I own I despair of Success, as well from the Tenets of their Religion, and their natural Propension to *France*, as from the Vicinity of the *French* Garrison at *Cape Breton*, which will always countenance and support their Separation: But however if they continue untractable and carry on an illicit Commerce and Correspondence with their Countrymen, so as to disturb or prejudice the Peace and Welfare of the Colony, I see no Reason why they should not be put under the Restraint of such Laws, as may reduce them into proper Obedience, and the Condition of *Hewers of Wood and Drovers of Water*, under the natural Subjects of the Mother-Country.

As, from the Civil Government which is to be established, I have a high Opinion of the *Under-taking* in Agitation, I shall appropriate a competent Number of my Eyes \* to watch over and guard it against Jobbers of all Kinds; and as long as old Argus writes, it shall never want a Friend to detect and expose their Practices.

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\* The Writer of this Journal styles himself Argus Centocull.

## P R O P O S A L S.

*Whiteball, March 7, 1748-9.*

**A** Proposal having been presented unto His Majesty, for the establishing a Civil Government in the Province of *Nova Scotia* in *North America*, as also for the better peopling and settling the said Province, and extending and improving the Fishery thereof, by granting Lands within the same, and giving other Encouragements to such of the Officers and private Men lately dismissed his Majesty's Land and Sea-service, as shall be willing to settle in the said Province; and his Majesty having signified his Royal Approbation of the Purport of the said Proposals, the Right Hon. the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations, do, by his Majesty's Command, give Notice, That proper Encouragement will be given to such of the Officers and private Men, lately dismissed his Majesty's Land and Sea-service, as are willing to accept of Grants of Land, and to settle with or without Families, in the Province of *Nova Scotia*.

That 50 Acres of Land will be granted in Fee Simple, to every private Soldier or Seaman, free from the Payment of any Quit-rents or Taxes, for the Term of ten Years; at the Expiration whereof, no Person to pay more than 1*s. per Annum* for every 50 Acres so granted.

That a Grant of 10 Acres, over and above the said 50 Acres, will be made to each private Soldier or Seaman having a Family, for every Person, including Women and Children, of which his Family shall consist; and further Grants made to them, on the like Conditions, as their Families shall increase, or in Proportion to their Abilities to cultivate the same.

That

That 80 Acres, on like Conditions, will be granted to every Officer, under the Rank of Ensign in the Land-service, and that of Lieutenant in the Sea-service, and to such as have Families 15 Acres over and above the said 80 Acres, for every Person of which their Families shall consist.

That 200 Acres on like Conditions, will be granted to every Ensign, 300 to every Lieutenant, 400 to every Captain, and 600 to every Officer above the Rank of Captain in the Land-service ; as also the like Quantity of 400 Acres and on the like Conditions, to every Lieutenant in the Sea-service, and 600 Acres to every Captain ; and to such of the above-mentioned Officers as have Families, a further Grant of 30 Acres will be made, over and above their respective Quotas, for every Person of which their Families shall consist.

That the Lands will be parcelled out to the Settlers, as soon as possible, after their Arrival, and a Civil Government established ; whereby they will enjoy all the Liberties, Privileges and Immunities, enjoyed by his Majesty's Subjects in any other of the Colonies and Plantations in *America*, under his Majesty's Government ; and proper Measures will also be taken for their Security and Protection.

That all such as are willing to accept of the above Proposals, shall, with their Families be subsisted during their Passage, as also for the Space of 12 Months after their Arrival.

That they shall be furnished with Arms and Ammunition, as far as will be judged necessary for their Defence, with a proper Quantity of Materials and Utensils for Husbandry, clearing and cultivating their Lands, erecting Habitations, carrying on the Fishery, and such other Purposes as shall be necessary for their Support.

That

That all such Persons as are desirous of engaging in the above Settlement do transmit, by Letter, or personally give in their Names, signifying in what Regiment or Company, or on Board what Ship, they last served; and if they have Families, what Number of Persons belonging to such Families they intend to carry with them, distinguishing the Age and Quality of each Person, to any of the following Officers appointed to receive and enter the same in Books open for that Purpose, *Viz.*

*John Pownall, Esq; Solicitor and Clerk of the Reports to the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations, at their Office at Whiteball.*

*John Ruffel, Esq; Commissioner of his Majesty's Navy at Portsmouth.*

*Philip Vanburgh, Esq; Commissioner of his Majesty's Navy at Plymouth.*

That, for the Benefit of the Settlement, the same Conditions which are proposed to private Soldiers and Seamen, shall likewise be granted to Carpenters, Shipwrights, Smiths, Masons, Joyners, Brickmakers, Bricklayers, and all other Artificers, necessary in Building or Husbandry, not being private Soldiers or Seamen.

That the same Conditions, as are proposed to those who have served in the Capacity of Ensign, shall extend to all Surgeons, whether they have been in his Majesty's Service or not, upon their producing proper Certificates of their being duly qualified.

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